Pass Christian Area
1699 1999
Colonization Tricentennial Committee

Pass Christian, Mississippi

The Tricentennial

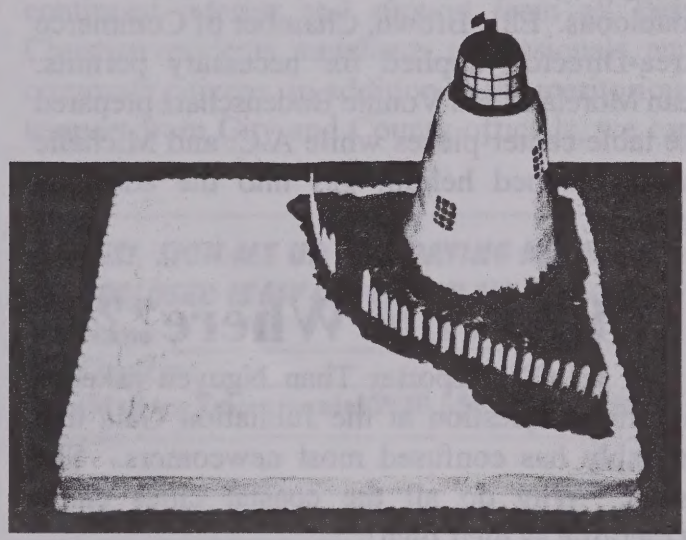
Volume 2, Issue 2 January 30, 1999

JUBILATION '99

In signalling the opening events for the 1999 Tricentennial celebrations for Pass Christian, the Tricentennial Jubilation gala held on January 14th at the Espy Avenue Community Center was a huge success. The cocktail affair was attended by nearly 400 people who viewed the featured exhibits contributed to the Tricentennial Committee. These include the sculptured d'Iberville Bronze Bust by Michelle Smith, the d'Iberville Stone by Brian Nettles, the Pass Christian Lighthouse scaled model by Buddy Diboll, and the Lighthouse painting by Geri Dendis. The Committee also had its 11 flags that flew over the Pass on full display.

Welcoming greeters at the door were Jean Moreland, Geri Dendis, Helen Davis and Paul Bode.

Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres contributed by local restaurants were served and supplemented by foods prepared by Charles and Melanie Melson with a support team including Jessie Heitzmann, Signe Wagner, Etta Scarborough, Ellie Brown, Tom Bain, and David Bourdette. The Punch Bowl was catered to by Mary Catherine Ward, Julia Cerra, and Byron Ladner. The "Cash-bar" was tended by "Celebrity Bartenders" Ed Valentino, Ellie Brown, David Goff, and Skip Barrett. Consumed with great pleasure was the awe-inspiring ***"Lighthouse Cake"*** which was artfully created by Traci Gordon Goff. It was a towering success.



A short program was emcee'd by Mayor Billy McDonald as Ken Austin related the special 1999 planned events, which included the latest information on restoring the Pass Christian Lighthouse. Highlighting the evening was an invigorating talk presented by Lucimarian Roberts who pointed out the values of volunteerism and the moral growth that is realized from such commitments.

The "Oldies by Goodies" music attracted a number of dancers to the floor as Gene Rogers, Vonnie Bodenschatz, Julia Cerra, and Rachal Rose were selling *"split-the-pot"* tickets to those with a little gambling spirit. The winning ticket was held by Billy Bourdin.

The real winners of the evening were the citizens of Pass Christian as Mayor McDonald announced that Supervisor David LaRosa had passed him a slip of paper committing $5000 towards the Lighthouse Restoration Fund.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Virgil Harris headed up the Logistics Team in setting up the auditorium for tables and seating as well as assembling the exhibit displays. Jim Sager and Ralph Ladner rounded up the trays of food donated by Annie's Restaurant, Harbor View Café, Rusty Pelican, and the Hester Plauché Family. Dayton Robinson, Margie Hamilton, and Dana Dedeaux manned the Merchandise table in selling Tricentennial lapel pins and booklets and taking orders for the special edition Mardi Gras doubloons. Ellie Brown, Chamber of Commerce Area-Director, applied for necessary permits. Jean Moreland and Vonnie Bodenschatz prepared the table center-pieces while A.C. and Michelle Smith pumped helium gas into the adorning balloons.

D'Iberville Where???

WLOX Reporter Than Nguyen asked a significant question at the Jubilation Gala that probably has confused most newcomers. She asked, "Why do all the coastal cities claim D'Iberville as their own?"

In satisfying the question, historically, d'Iberville anchored at Ship Island on February 10, 1699 and then landed at Biloxi the following day. Before sighting Ship Island, he had made probings at Pensacola and at Mobile. In seeking the Mississippi River, he entered the mouth on March 2nd and continued exploring upriver including sites near New Orleans and Baton Rouge. On his return to Ship Island, he spent the night on the northshore of Lake Pontchartrain at Goose Point near Lacombe and Slidell, the next night near Waveland, and the following night somewhere at a point near Pass Christian (perhaps Pitcher Point or nearby Bear Point), and returned to Ship Island on March 31, 1699. Not finding a suitable location to defend their findings, before returning to France, d'Iberville ordered a fort built at Ocean Springs in April 1699.

MARDI GRAS FLOAT RIDERS LAST CHANCE

The countdown is here for Mardi Gras. If you wish to ride in the Pass Christian Parade on Sunday, February 14th the Board of Directors made it a littel easier. All you need do is pay $25 for your rider position, wear a costume of your choosing, and purchase keepsake Tricentennial doubloons at rider costs, 50 for $10. **All Aboard who's coming aboard!** Fun and Frolic are an understatement!

A limited quantity of serial numbered collector item bronze doubloons are available for only $5 each. For further information contact Margie Hamilton at 452-2435 or Dana Dedeaux at 255-1288.

MARDI GRAS ART

Student Contest Winners

Stacy Steube - First Place
Heidi Knight - Second Place
Autumn Huk - Third Place
Fritz Hamilton - Honorable Mention

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

to Host William F. Winter

Limited seats are available for the Tuesday, March 30 banquet honoring d'Iberville's return from the Mississippi River. Historian and former governor, **William F. Winter** will speak on the history of the area. It is advised that interested persons send their $20 donation to the Pass Christian Historical Society, POB 58, PCMS 39571 to guaranty seating. Questions are handled by President John Lutenbacher at 452-9296.

Power of Volunteerism

In February 1998, the Tricentennial Committee's Executive group established its first Budget for approval to the Board of Directors for approval. It had a range of $36,000 to $40,000. Through the year, only the expenditure items were refined to conform with the events and activities which proved most worthy for the community. Therefore, the Budget total remains the same.

Knowing that funding could only come from residents and existing organizations, every dollar spent has been well accounted for. Major monies raised came from donations such as Board Supervisor David LaRosa, the City of Pass Christian, the Friends of the Library, the Rotary Club in addition to many other service organizations and some individuals who prefer to remain anonymous. Attending citizens at each of the two banquet events brought in a net profit of about $1500 each. -- And, we are grateful to the two hundred and fifty residents and merchants who have contribute membership payments which results to approximately $3,000. We also wish to acknowledge the corporate donations from Mississippi Power and Fillette, Green Shipping Services.

We also champion the exhibit gifts made by Michelle Smith, Brian Nettles, Buddy Diboll, and Geri Dendis. These heritage art crafts have a total value of approximately $14,000. We also are thankful to those local restaurateurs who provided their fine food selections.

The committee's expenses have been prioritized in bronzing the d'Iberville bust, the durable plastic cover for the Lighthouse model display, the acquisition of the 11 flags that flew over the Coast, and the cost of staging the events. Another priority has been the distribution of the Tricentennial Newsletter with a cost of printing and postage, which has averaged $250 an issue. No other community Tricentennial celebration has offered this service to its citizenry. The cost of postage has gone up, but we thank the Jenkins family for giving us cut-rate pricing with responsive and quality service.

Members of the Board of Directors are individuals who also represent many of the service organizations and institutions. They have continued to meet monthly with an attendance of 20 to 30 active and eager persons. The Tricentennial effort has already achieved success during its planning year of 1998, and will be most successful in celebrating this 300th anniversary year of the d'Iberville explorations. With the continued interest and support from all Pass Christian residents, merchants, professionals, and corporate citizens, in addition to the meritorious support from City and County officials, we can count on a good year.

YES! SIGN ME UP AS A PAYING MEMBER!
ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR $15 OR MORE!
Name: _____
City/Zip: _____
(Mail to: Tricentennial/POB 354,PCMS 39571)

Arbor Day Planting

Pass Christian Garden Club

Arbor Day ceremonies will be conducted at the Pass Christian Elementary School located at 700 West North Street at 10 a.m., Friday, February 12, 1999. Committee chairperson, Connie Boudreaux conveyed that Wes Jones is donating the tree and preparing the ground for planting. School teacher Verna Walker will assist her class in planting a colonial type herbal garden in honoring first president, George Washington as coordinated by Pam Williams, President of the Pass Christian Garden Club.

The public is invited to attend this first of several events in the process of certifying Pass Christian as a *George Washington Community.*

St. Paul Carnival Association

The Carnival Association's Theme is *"Mississippi Discovered"*. Trish McDonald's logo design is a captivating depiction of d'Iberville on the Mississippi beaches with a gorgeous sunrise in the background. This logo is featured on numerous St. Paul Mardi Gras mementos including doubloons, throw cups, and necklaces that are available at the Raintree Center. All proceeds go to the St. Paul Catholic School.

The two competing teams for King and Queen have been very active in creating many fund raising events to benefit St. Paul School. **Wes Jones and Robin Cuevas** and **Edward "Inky" Fournier and Helen Bentz** have been having a ball. Call St. Paul School at 452-7359 for the list of remaining events.

- **Mardi Gras Kids Parade** -- Friday, February 12, 1999
- **Alumnae Party** in St. Paul's Gym -- February 12, 1999
- **Mardi Gras Ball** -- Saturday, February 13, 1999.
- **Mardi Gras Parade** -- Sunday, February 14, 1999.

52nd Annual Spring Pilgrimage March 18th - March 27th, 1999

Pass Christian and Pass Christian Isles Garden Clubs will celebrate the pilgrimage on Friday March 19. Opening Day Flower Show and Exhibitions will be held at the Historic Train Depot in Bay St. Louis. Anyone interested in the full coastal schedule can get a flyer from the Chamber of Commerce or call 1-800-466-9048. **All events are free.**

Billy's Quirky Corner

What was the previous name for the Pass Christian Harbor?

Call Billy Bourdin at 452-2661 or send your answer to POB 354.

Counting Bricks before they Hatch

Buddy Diboll hasn't totally weaned himself from the four month effort of making the scaled model of the Pass Christian Lighthouse. He has been fielding calls from the press, merchants who would like to display his exhibit, in addition to calls from residents wanting to know where and when the tower will be built. One call of interest was a request to display the Lighthouse at the Biloxi-Gulfport Regional Airport. They would like to have it at their terminal during the Mardi Gras holidays.

In another less serious meditative mood, Buddy pulled out his rule and calculator and actually figured out how many bricks were used to build the first lighthouse on the Mississippi Sound. It would be interesting to have a contest to see who would come closest to the actual number. But, in Buddy's enthusiasm he already told a few of his close friends. He figured out that it was about 45,000 bricks on site, or on a "whole brick" count, it was 42,878. Research is still underway to find out where all these bricks went to.

Congratulations!

Rep. Diane Peranich and Dr. Jim Williams USM Gulf Coast will have its 4-year College soon!

Editorial Department

Dan Ellis

Dayton Robinson

We invite your ideas or written submissions.

THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

(a Poem by William V. Robinson)

Bill Robinson wrote the following poem in 1925, when he was just a young man of 22 years. His first job was as Secretary for the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce. From there he went on to Hancock Bank where, in time, he accelerated to second in command as Corporate Vice President. While maintaining his office in the Pass Hancock Bank Building he also supervised the bank in Bay St. Louis. Active in many civic organizations, he was also one of the main movers in acquiring and establishing War Memorial Park. He was a profound acheiver and one whose son, Dayton Robinson, has followed suit in demonstrating pride and passion for the Pass.

The Magnolia State's a wonder,
That's a fact without a doubt,
But the wondrous portion -- Thunder!
Why we mustn't leave it out!

It's the famous coastal section
Where the Southern zephyrs blow,
If you give it close inspection
You will never leave no mo'.

Why, we use our grapes for baseballs
And pecans as choppin' blocks;
And our quail grow big as turkeys,
And we're raising them in flocks.

Wild ducks, like airplanes, wingin',
Clutter up the air in flight,
And mocking birds a-singin'
Keep you sleeping sound at night.

We've shrimp as big as lobsters,
And oysters . . . size of kegs,
And Crabs as big as 'gators
With their eyes like ostrich eggs.

We catch our fish in steamers
And some so big, so fine;
We have to chloroform the things
To get them off the line.

Our bathing beaches soothe your eye,
Our bathing beauties, too.
In white-winged yachts a-sailing
On the sea of azure blue;

A puff of wind, a flap of sail,
A bit of snow-white foam,
And all the tourists want to make
Mississippi's Coast their home.

For climate, health and beauty,
You just can't beat the Coast,
But we're so busy growing
We haven't time to boast!

So pack your bag and baggage,
Your children and your wife,
And move to South Mississippi
For the balance of your life.

And when you go to Heaven,
That eternal place of bliss,
I'll bet you twelve to seven
That it will end like this:

When on resurrection morn
The day dawns clear and bright,
The mighty sound of Gabriel's horn
Has driven back the night.

The Sainted Peter takes his place
And starts to call the roll,
A worried look will cross his face
At the few he will behold.

The absentees so strange to'll
Make him shed a tear, alas,
For their's forty million angels
On vacation at the Pass.

Ship Yards

According to Nap Cassibry, Delisle, which was first known as Wolftown until a postoffice was established there, was a hot-bed of early shipyards along the Gulf coast. At Wolf River and Bayou Delisle; shipyards that had early start-ups were Martinolich, Sellier, Lizana and Huddleston, and Pavolini. Even the Hands brothers started at Wolf River before moving to Bayou Bernard at Handsboro, which was a highly industrious town prior to the Civil War, and is now part of Gulfport.

Heritage Homes

Possibly the oldest home on the Gulf coast is known as *"Windy Hill"* and was built by the Phillipe Saucier family in 1834. One of his sons, Pierre, built the house in Pass Christian which has the Historic Marker entitled *"Union Quarters"* on Scenic Drive. It was erected in 1843, having other owners through the years such as Mrs. Louise Bidwell, Dr. Pratt, and Frank Wharton. The beautiful home has been in the process of tedious and deliberate rehabilitation since purchased by Heinz and Frances Hoffmann.

Early Populations

In 1810, a traveler listed 18 families on the lower Pascagoula and more upstream, 12 families at Biloxi, 10 to 15 French families at the Bay of St. Louis, and just under 20 families on the east bank of the Pearl. At the village of Pass Christian "4 or 5 French free Negroes and Mulattoes" were in residence and owned land. Moreover, a number of wealthy New Orleanians had established summer homes at that place.

New Paid Memberships --- January 1 thru January 15

Individuals & Families

David & Kay Andrē
Carroll V. Bellau
Cornelia C.,Boudreaux
Billy Bourdin
Capt. J.W. & Sandra Clark
Donald DeMetz
Jackk L. Donnow
Warren & Lynn Doussan
John & Estella Drevar
E.S. Duffy
Katherine H. Floyd
Lorraine D. Folse
Elizabeth P. Gould
Martha M. Grant
Evelyn A. Gregory
Dorothy C. Heiss
Patricia N. Hill
H. Book Hopkins
Sally & Wayne James
C. Randall Jones
Mary J. Jones
Willa Lizana
Barbara G. Lynch
Laurie S. Matkin
Chipper McDermott
Bob & Jennie Lou Mintz
Elaine P. Norcross
Kay Ruth Norton
Edward R. Orfila
Shannon Pickich
John S. Pulkowski
Mrs. O.H. Rhodes Jr.
Gene J. Rogers
Randolph P. Rogers
Doris I. Roofner
David Sawyer
Rev. Bernard W. Schmaltz Jr.
Mary E. Schultz
Eugene H. Walet III
Leonia M. Wheeler
Nancy D. Witt
William T. Wood

Merchants & Institutions

C.C. Lynch & Associates
Coastal Impressions
Hillyer House
Mallini's Inc.
First Missionary Baptist Church
Long Beach Historical Society

Membership Renewals

J. Kenneth Austin
Wallace & Diane Farragut
John E. Harris
Edward V. Jurkowski
Thelma Pulkowski

Early Arrivals

The first recorded landing at or near Pass Christian was by d'Iberville, on his return from exploring the Mississippi River on March 30, 1699. Other reported journeys to the Pass and at Delisle were by Bienville and Andre Penicaut and by Jean Baptiste Saucier during the early 1700s. There are signs of habitation which evidently took place during the mid-1700s as indicated by 1770's English maps showing ruins of dwellings near Bayou Boisdoré and near the present harbor.

At Delisle, first called Wolf Town, during the 1780s, a large settlement of French families received grants during French, English and Spanish colonial periods. These included Philippe Saucier and brothers-in-law Bartholomew Grelot and the Nicaises. Later, arrivals were the Dedeauxs, Dubuisson, Cassibry, Turin, Lassabbe, and the Labats.

Nicholas Christian Ladner established a dairy farm on Cat Island in 1745. Early French maps named the channel *Passe aux Huitres* (Oyster Pass), which was later called "Pass Christian".

The Widow Asmard, resident of New Orleans, owned all of the peninsula of Pass Christian which extended to mid-Long Beach. It was maintained as a dairy farm by her dozen or more slaves. In her Will of 1797, she claimed ownership prior to English colonization in 1763.

Nearing the end of the Spanish colonial period, Bartholomew Pellerin was granted all of the same lands. He sold his ownership in 1814 to Edward Livingston while at New Orleans. Following Edward's death, his widow, Louise Livingston, sold almost all of the remaining peninsula to John Henderson, D.M. Hughes and Charles Shipman in 1837.

It was Edward Livingston who sold the Lighthouse Lot to the U.S. Government in 1831.

EARLY PASS CATHOLIC HISTORY

At the beginning of the 18th century, three Jesuit priests performed missionary work in the Indian villages and French settlements. They were Fathers DuRu, Joseph de Limoges, and Peter Dongé.

Afterwards, in 1722, the Capuchins and in 1725, the Jesuits, served in the Lower Mississippi Valley. One of these was Father Dorez at the Biloxi mission in 1723, with later missionaries sent from New Orleans and Mobile.

When Great Britain took possession in 1763, the Catholic missionaries were withdrawn. During the Spanish regime, clerics were sent from Cuba. In 1798, Bishop John Carroll supervised over Mississippi.

When Spain relinquished the Gulf Coast in 1810, it wasn't until 1826, that Mississippi was placed under the authority of Bishop Blanc of the New Orleans. Finally, in 1837 the Diocese of Natchez was formed, however, it wasn't until late April 1841, that Bishop John Mary Joseph Chanche arrived to fill the empty position.

In 1843, Bishop Chanche purchased a small lot, which was used as Pass Christian's first mission church that was supervised by Rev. Guillaume Labbé who celebrated the first mass on June 16, 1844.

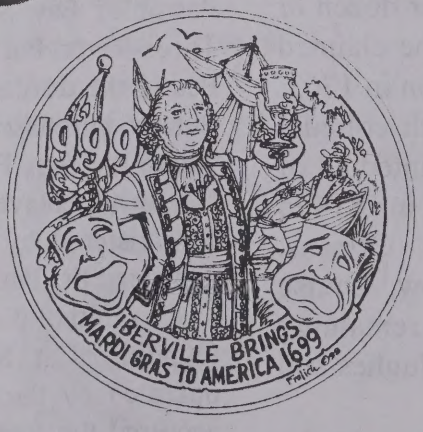
On Saturday, July 31, 1847, Bishop Chanche appointed Rev. Louis Stanislaus Mary Buteux as Pastor of Bay St. Louis, Pass Christian, and the Three-River Parishes comprising the areas of the Pearl, the Jordan, and the Wolf Rivers. Father Buteux purchased a larger lot on March 8, 1849 where the first Parish Church, called *Janua Coeli*, "Door to Heaven," was built in 1851, and was administered by Rev. A. Paul Guerard. He had dedicated St. Paul Cemetery in 1850.

Catholic education had its start with the founding of St. Mary's College for boys which was operated by the Christian Brothers Order. They acquired the former Pass Christian Hotel in 1866. This was followed by the Sisters of Mercy who were invited to open a convent and school for girls in 1870.

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS
The Tricentennial
POB 354
Pass Christian, MS 39571

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage
PAID
Pass Christian, MS
Permit No. 2

Join the Parade
Ride on the Float



Call Margie or Dana
452-2435 or 255-1288

Ride the Tricentennial Float on Sunday, February 14th